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The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

30 June 1982

NOTE FOR: C/FEPAC/OCR

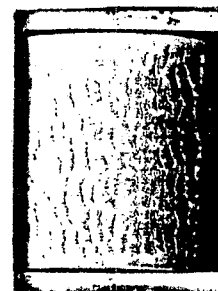
FROM : EA/DDCI

FYI: Some feedback from John McMahon on attached, whom he met on 29 June. He thinks DDO has considerably more information  and suggests you tap them for it.



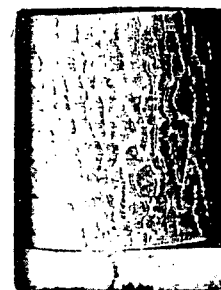
Attachment

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

*Sandy - copy of  
1st 3 pages w/  
following note to OCN*

*C/FEPAC/OCN*

*FYI: Some feedback  
from John McMahon  
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LEE Bum Suk

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Since 2 June 1982  
Addressed as: Minister Lee

OFFICE OF  
CENTRAL REFERENCE



Lee Bum Suk, former Minister of National Unification (since 1980), moved to the Blue House as a result of a major Cabinet shuffle in early January. Of six departing Ministers, he is the only one to remain in the government. In his new post, he will act as chief of staff to President Chun Doo Hwan. Lee is a highly competent career diplomat who served from 1976 to 1980 as Ambassador to India. Because of his foreign service background, he has few political ties. Lee has worked closely with Americans over the years. US officials, who have called Lee an old and valued friend, have described him as hard-working, intelligent, honest and something of an independent spirit. Notwithstanding his frank and forthright appearance, he is also shrewd, ambitious and probably calculating. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lee seems to have a very broad outlook and feel that he is not likely to hesitate in seeing that various points of view are presented to the President. (C)

Lee has been involved in North-South Korean issues for many years, and his selection as Minister of National Unification in September 1980 was termed a logical choice. He has had wide experience in negotiating with North Korea. He was involved in discussions with the North on the exchange of prisoners of war in 1953, and during 1972-76 he served both as vice president of the Korean National Red Cross and as senior representative to the North-South Red Cross talks. As Minister of

(cont.)

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National Unification, Lee was charged with reviewing the entire history of North-South contacts and developing a series of policy options for President Chun's consideration. In his public statements he called for a more flexible approach in South Korea's dealings with the North. In October 1980 Lee indicated privately that he believed President Chun to be far more openminded in his thinking about North-South issues than was the late president Park Chung Hee. (C)

#### Early Life and Career

Lee was born in Pyongyang in what is now North Korea. He attended Posong College (now Korea University) in Seoul in the 1940s. (During the 1960s he studied at the University of Maryland and George Washington University.) During the Korean war Lee served initially as a military intelligence officer and then worked with the Red Cross, becoming chief of the Youth Department and later head of its Seoul office. In 1960 Lee joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 1961 he became chief of its International Organizations Section. He was a member of the Korean observer delegations to the UN General Assembly sessions in 1961 and 1962. By 1966 he had become director general of the Office of Protocol, with the personal rank of ambassador. Lee served as Ambassador to Tunisia during 1970-71 and was named ambassador at large in 1971. (U)

#### Personal Data

Lee, who is in his late 50s, is married and has two daughters and a son. He leads an extremely active social life, especially with foreigners, and

Lee speaks fluent and idiomatic English. He has visited the United States several times, most recently in September 1981. His name is spelled Yi Pom-sok in the McCune-Reischauer romanization system. (C)

21 January 1982

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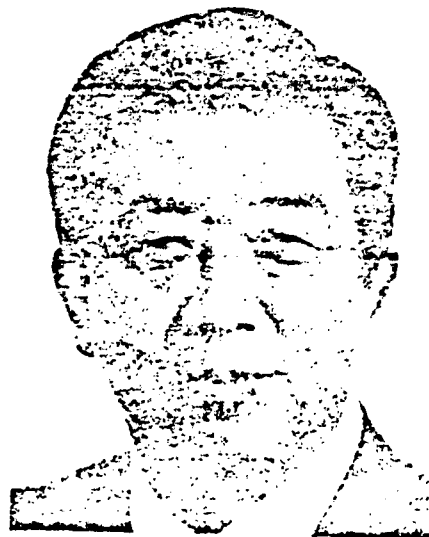
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LEW Byong Hion  
(Phonetic: yoo)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ambassador to the United  
States (since September  
1981)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Ambassador



Before being named to his present position, Gen. (Ret.) Lew Byong Hion had been Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) since the December 1979 "headquarters coup" led by then Maj. Gen. (now President) Chun Doo Hwan. One of the most qualified general officers in the ROK Army, Lew earned a reputation as a dedicated officer and a man of integrity while serving with distinction in both command and staff assignments. He may have been chosen for the prestigious Washington post because he had worked with US personnel since the early days of his military career during the Korean war. He has always been forthright and has interacted extremely well with Americans. Ambitious, competent, and highly professional, he has been close to the military-political circle that has ruled South Korea for two decades. (C)

Lew is a graduate of the Korean Military Academy (1948), the US Army Command and General Staff College (1955), and the ROK National War College (1956). During 1966-67 he served in Vietnam. He was director of the JCS during 1974-78 and deputy commander of the ROK-US Combined Forces Command during 1978-79. (U)

[ ] have described Lew as a highly intelligent person with an inquisitive mind. He is interested in US history and politics and can converse ably on these subjects. Friendly and soft spoken, he has a good sense of humor. He enjoys golf, hunting, fishing, and swimming. Lew, 57, is married and has four sons. He speaks excellent English and Japanese and good Chinese. His name is spelled Yu Pyong-hyon in the McCune Reischauer romanization system. (C)

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